

**CONCLUSION**

Applicant has addressed each of the concerns of the Examiner regarding the Claims in the present application, and thus requests allowance of the Claims. Should any further impediments to allowance of the Claims exist, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the indicated phone number.

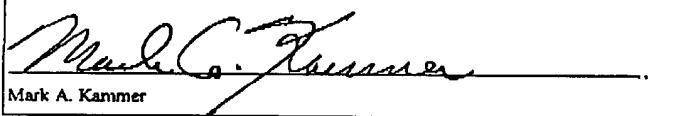
Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: 11/6/2002

<b>Certificate of Transmission</b>
I hereby certify that this paper and all documents indicated as being attached are being transmitted to the Box Responses - No Fee Section of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, at fax telephone number 703-872-9326.
Date of Deposit: November 6, 2002

Mark A. Kammer

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**In the Claims:**

16. (new) The method of Claim 15, further comprising the step of inserting a hitch ball into said cavity prior to placing the lock plate in the closed position.